

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

NFAC 7486-80

November 10, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR CABINET AND AGENCY HEADS

FROM: JACK WATSON *js*

SUBJECT: An Orderly Transition of the Presidency

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The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm and clarify the President's instructions given last week regarding the transition.

The Presidential Transition Act of 1963 is intended to facilitate "... the orderly transfer of the executive power in connection with the expiration of the term of office of a President and the inauguration of a new President...." The Act states:

"The national interest requires that such transitions in the office of the President be accomplished so as to assure continuity in the faithful execution of the laws and in the conduct of the affairs of the Federal Government, both domestic and foreign."

As you know, the President has asked me to serve as overall coordinator of the transition effort on his behalf. Al McDonald, White House Staff Director, will be working closely with me on the transition, as will Harrison Wellford, Executive Director of OMB. As soon as Governor Reagan officially designates his transition representative(s) for your agency, I will transmit those names to you. I am planning to meet with Governor Reagan's director of the transition, Ed Meese, on Wednesday, November 12th, and should receive the names at that time.

The transition briefing materials you are preparing should be concise and contain information that will be of immediate usefulness to the incoming officials. It would not be fruitful, in my opinion, to inundate Governor Reagan's people with excessive detail or with unsolicited advice and recommendations. Our guideline is simply to be helpful and forthcoming in every way possible, without burying the new people under mountains of briefing books and paper.

Although the exact form and content of the transition briefing materials will be determined by each agency, those materials should cover the subjects set forth in the attachment to this memorandum.

The President and his Administration are, of course, fully responsible for the exercise of all governmental responsibilities until the President-elect assumes office on January 20, 1981. As the Presidential Transition Act states, one of our primary goals is to "minimize any disruption which could produce results detrimental to the safety and well-being of the United States and its people."

Please submit to my office a brief progress report on your transition efforts on November 15, 1980, and each two weeks thereafter.

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81B00493R000100090012-1

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

Routing Slip

*D. Lehman*

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	DD/RM				
4	DD/NFA				
5	DD/CT				
6	DD/A				
7	DD/O				
8	DD/S&T				
9	GC		X		
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/PA				
14	D/EEO				
15	D/Pers				
16	AO/DCI				
17	C/IPS				
18	<i>D. Lehman</i>	X			
19	NSC/C				
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	SUSPENSE DATE:				

Remarks:

D/ Executive Secretary

Number 1080  
Date

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Attachment

Subjects for Transition Materials

1. Agency missions, programs, and statutory authorities.
2. Basic organization and functions.
3. Budgetary and financial information.
4. Personnel policies and administration -- nature and tenure of appointment to major positions, conflict of interest, compensation and benefits, supporting services.
5. Key senior career personnel.
6. Significant interagency relationships.
7. Significant intergovernmental relationships.
8. Budget and appropriation processes.
9. Legislative processes, including legislative clearance requirements.
10. Issues and priorities, with emphasis on matters requiring immediate decision and those requiring action during the first quarter of 1981.

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP81B00493R000100090012-1

Admiral Stansfield Turner, USN  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

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